[English]

Supply of M-17 Helicopters & T-80 Battle Tanks by Russia to Pakistan

901. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian M-17 helicopters and T-80 battle tanks have found their way to Pakistan inspite of Russian promise to India that this war equipment will not be supplied to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter with Russia; and

(c) if so, the Russian response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) According to our information, Russian has supplied some MI-17 civilian transport helicopters to Pakistan in 1996. It has not supplied T-80 battle tanks or other arms to Pakistan. The Russian authorities have on several occasions provided high level categorical assurances that Russia was committed not to supplying arms to Pakistan.

Height of new A.T.C. Towers

902. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the height of new ATC Towers in Mumbai and Chennai airports;

(b) whether it is permissible under safety norms;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action taken thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) The matter is under examination by an expert committee.

[Translation]

Morning Service to Delhi from Varanasi

903. SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKER : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether morning air services are available from Varanasi to Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to introduce the morning air services from Varanasi to Delhi in the interest of passengers of adjoining districts of Varanasi such as Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to operate a morning service from Varanasi to Delhi. Private operators with suitable aircraft are being encouraged to add more stations including Varanasi on their network subject to viability.

[English]

Refining Capacity

904. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total refining capacity of Indian refineries during 1996-97;

(b) the extent to which the domestic needs of petroleum products are being met by these refineries;

(c) whether refining capacities are being fully utilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The total refining capacity as on 1.4.1997 was 61.55 MMTPA.

(b) the production of petroleum products *vis-a-vis* the domestic needs for the year 1996-97 is given below:

(figures in MMT)

Production	Demand	Shortfall
59.24	79.16	19.92

(c) and (d) The overall refining capacity utilisation of the refineries for the year 1996-97 was 104%.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Memorandum of Understanding between Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd. and Department of Defence Production and supply for the year 1997-98.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English Versions) between the